



Truman as a Boy



Truman being sworn in as president

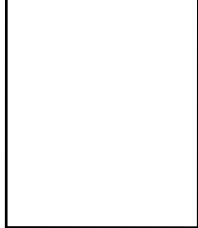


Judge Truman (center) at his bench

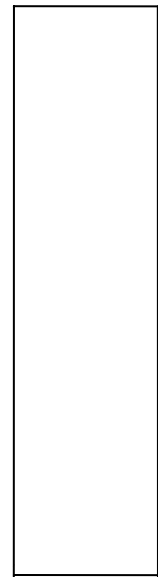
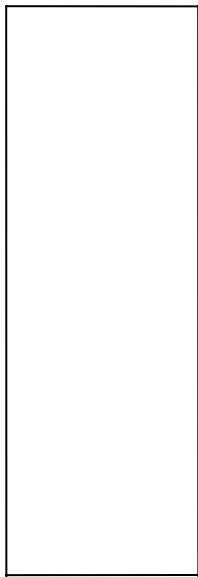
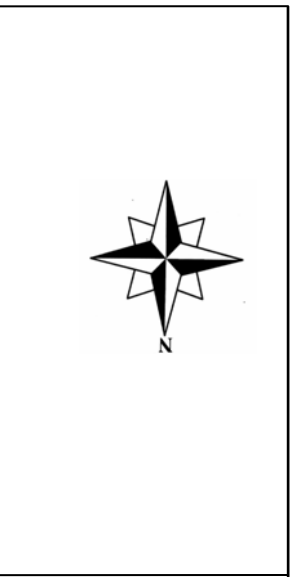


Senator Truman

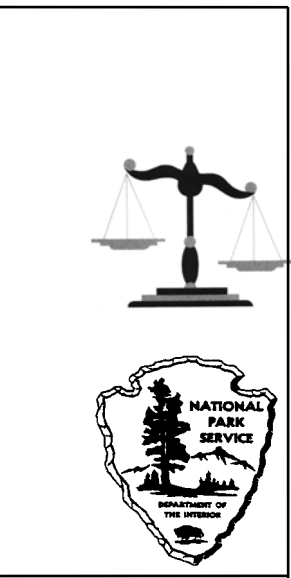
# Harry S Truman National Historic Site Junior Ranger Program



Lexington Avenue



Maple Street

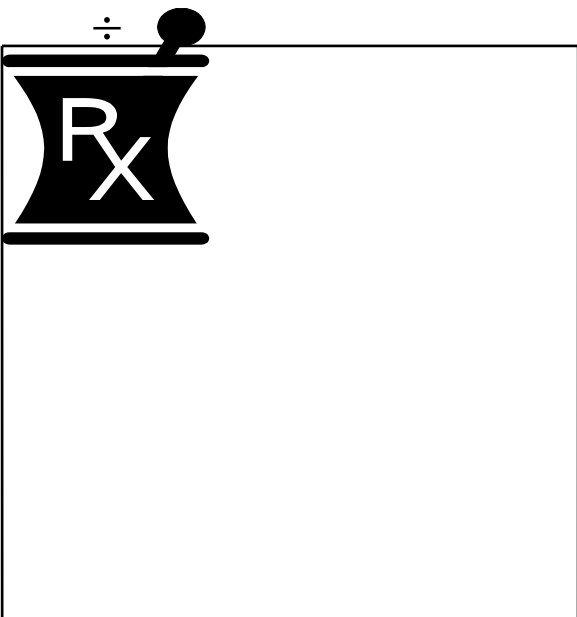


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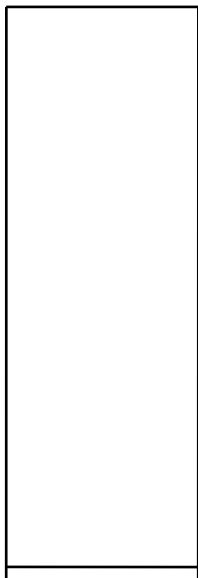
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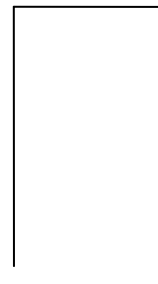
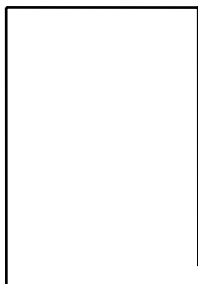
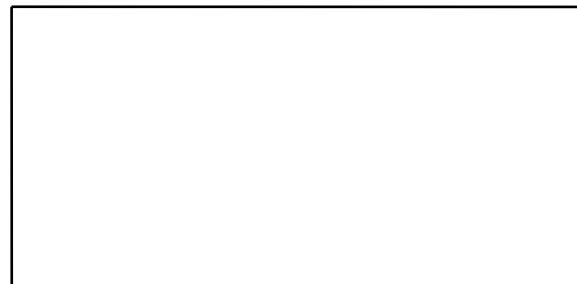
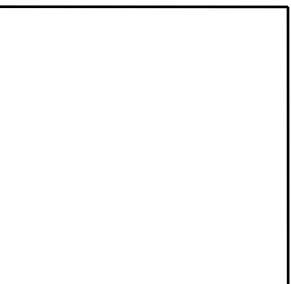


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Truman Road



Lexington Avenue

The Job of National Park Rangers is to preserve and protect our nation's treasures. One way we do that is by telling visitors about the importance of our parks. You can help the Park Rangers at the Truman home by becoming a Junior Ranger. As a Truman site Junior Ranger you will learn about our nation's thirty-third president, Harry S Truman, and his life here in Independence. This program involves a fifty minute walk through Truman's home town of Independence. To become a Junior Ranger you must first take the Junior Ranger pledge, then complete 6 of the activities in this program (put a check mark by each activity you complete). After your walk return this packet to the ranger at the ticket center. If you need help, ask your parents or one of the Park Rangers.

**Junior Ranger Pledge:**

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to:

- 1) leave all animals, plants and historic objects undisturbed here and at all national parks I visit.
- 2) explore other national parks.
- 3) Have fun and stay safe while earning my Junior Ranger Badge.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Maple Street

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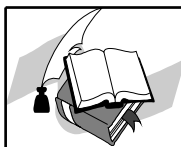
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Truman Road



## Stop 1: Visitor Center

Harry S Truman was born in 1884 in Lamar, Missouri. From there Harry and his family moved to his grandfather's farm near Grandview, Missouri. Harry's mother wanted her children to get a good education, so when Harry was six years old his family moved to Independence. This move allowed Harry to go to a better school than those in Grandview at the time. Harry's family first moved to a house on Crysler street, then in 1895 Harry's family moved into a new house at the corner of Waldo and River streets. It was there Harry started to make some of his first and life long friends

### Activity 1)

1. Watch the twelve minute slide show in the visitor center. \_\_\_\_\_  
(After watching place a check-mark in the space provided.)
2. Find the answers to these two questions.
  1. Lamar is \_\_\_\_\_ miles south of Independence.
  2. The Grandview farm was owned by Harry's grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ Young.

From here go to the second stop, the 1859 Jail next door.

## Stop 2: Harry Truman's Friends

After Harry and his family moved to the new house on Waldo, Harry quickly started to make new friends. Harry was not always allowed to play the games the other children played because he wore glasses and he did not want to break them. Since Harry was known as a person that played fair he was often asked to play the role of umpire, during baseball games.

One of Harry's best friends, Charlie Ross, spent a few years living in the jail that you see here. Charlie did not live in the jail because he did something wrong. Charlie lived here because his father was the county marshal and the marshal and his family lived above the jail. Harry and Charlie were not only friends, they were also classmates. Harry and Charlie had one major thing in common: a love of reading. They loved to read so much it is said they made a bet to see who could read all of the books in the Independence public library first. During their senior year the two of them worked together on the school yearbook. Since Charlie was a better student than Harry, he was in charge of the yearbook and Harry was his assistant. Later when Harry became president he asked his friend Charlie to come work for him as his press secretary. The Press Secretary is a very important part of the presidents staff, because it is the job of the Press Secretary to keep the President in touch with the public through the news media. This was a position that Charlie Ross had earned as a successful reporter and as a dedicated friend to Harry.



Answer the following questions:

1. What do you and your friends like to do together?
2. What do you and your friends have in common?

### Stop 3: Harry's First Job

three dollars a week. At the end of his first week on the job Mr. Clinton gave Harry three silver dollars. Harry took part of the money and bought a gift for his mother and he then tried to give the rest to his father. Harry's father would not accept the money. It was Harry's and he had earned it. This incident taught Harry that hard work gets rewarded.

Activity 3) Fill in the missing words below and solve the puzzle by putting each letter over the corresponding number in the space below.

1. Harry earned three dollars a  $\frac{\quad}{5}$   $\frac{\quad}{8}$ .
2. Harry's job was to  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  the store.
3. Harry had to quit so he could focus on  $\frac{\quad}{1}$   $\frac{\quad}{6}$ .
4. Today you can buy ice  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  at Clinton's
5. Harry's parents taught him that a good  $\frac{\quad}{4}$  was important.
6. Harry was paid in  $\frac{\quad}{7}$  dollars.

**Answer:** Harry learned the value of  $\frac{\quad}{1} \frac{\quad}{2} \frac{\quad}{3} \frac{\quad}{4} \frac{\quad}{5} \frac{\quad}{6} \frac{\quad}{7} \frac{\quad}{8}$  at Clinton's.

Harry's parents not only taught him about the importance of education they also taught him about the importance of politics. From here cross the street and go to the statue of President Truman.

#### Stop 4: Harry is Introduced to Politics

Harry's father believed politics was one of the most important things in life. Harry's father was so serious about politics he was even known to get into a few fist fights when he could not win a political argument with words alone. Harry was first introduced to the world of politics when he was in the second grade. That year was a presidential election year and Harry's father wanted the democratic candidate, Grover Cleveland, to win. During the campaign Harry was given a cap that said " Grover Cleveland and Adlai Stevenson." It was a hat Harry wore with pride. When Cleveland was elected Harry's father climbed to the roof of his house and raised the American flag. Later that night, Harry's father rode in a torch light parade that went right by this corner, to celebrate the victory. Harry had learned so much about politics from his father that by the time he was twelve he was having political debates with his uncle Harrison. Later, when Harry was sixteen, his father got him a job as a page at the Democrat: Grover Cleveland Kansas City in 1900. Little did Harry know that he would later run for political office himself.



#### Activity 4)

Read each brief description in the left-hand column and find its answer in the right-hand column. Write the letter in the space provided.

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| ___1. Harry wore this kind of hat to school when he was in the second grade. | A. Democratic |
| ___2. What politicians need to win an election.                              | B. President  |
| ___3. Where the political parties decide who will run for president.         | C. Campaign   |
| ___4. Harry's father taught him that this was important.                     | D. Convention |
| ___5. Harry and his father belonged to this political party.                 | E. Votes      |
| ___6. What Harry's father raised over his house in 1892.                     | F. Politics   |
| ___7. Harry Truman and Grover Cleveland both served as this.                 | G. Flag       |

Without the influence of his father Truman would not have become the great politician that he was. From here go around the corner to the front of the courthouse. If the courthouse is open go inside and see if you can find Truman's courtroom.

### Stop 5: Truman's Early Political Career

Mr. Truman's political career started here in Independence in 1922. In that year Mr. Truman was elected to the position of judge in Jackson county. At that time a judge in Jackson County was what we now call a county commissioner. As a Judge, Truman's job was to insure that county roads, schools, and hospitals were built. These construction projects involved millions of dollars. Some of the Judges who were around before Harry were known to take some of that money for themselves. Truman's parents had always taught him to be honest and Mr. Truman refused to follow in the illegal footsteps of the earlier Judges. Mr. Truman's honesty quickly gained him the respect of the people of Jackson County. As a result the people of Missouri elected Truman to the US Senate in 1934.

Mr. Truman quickly made friends in the Senate due to his honesty. He also used his love of history, that his mother gave him, to become a successful Senator. As a senator Truman set up a committee to look into illegal activity in military construction. When Truman set up this committee he used a similar committee that had been set up during the Civil War as a model. With history as a guide, the "Truman Committee" saved the government millions of dollars. As a senator, Mr. Truman also relied on his love of reading. Whenever a bill was introduced in the Senate, Truman would go to the Library of Congress and read all that he could about the bill in order to have all of the facts before making a decision. Truman was becoming a successful politician. The honesty, that Truman displayed as a judge and senator along with his love of reading and willingness to work hard were traits that he got from his parents.



County Courthouse

#### Activity 5)

Answer the following questions:

1. What do Judges in Jackson county do today?
2. How long did Harry serve as a Senator?
3. What was the name of the committee that Harry set up as Senator?

Harry's parents were not the only influence on him. Harry also tried to be like his hero's. From here go to the west end of the courthouse to the statue of a man on horse back.

## Stop 6: Harry's Heroes

Harry, like most people, had heroes, but his heroes were not great athletes or movie stars, instead they were people who made history. When Harry was ten years old his mother gave him a set of books entitled *Great Men and Famous Women*. This set of books was a collection of stories about famous people in history. In this set of books Harry discovered most of his heroes as well as his love of history. Harry would study these famous people in order to learn from them.

Harry's biggest hero was the fiery, head strong Andrew Jackson, for whom Jackson County is named. Jackson was Harry's hero for a number of reasons. First, Jackson had been a successful military leader, something young Harry Truman wanted to be. Jackson was also a Democrat who served as president from 1828 to 1836. Harry admired Jackson so much when Harry became a Jackson County judge he decided to build a statue of Jackson in front of both county courthouses. One of those statues still stands today in Kansas City. The other statue is the you see in front of you. This statue was donated by President Truman to the city in order to honor his hero.

### Activity 6)

1. Use the clues below to unscramble the words next to them. Each scrambled word is the name of one of Harry's heroes.

**ntinhoagW** George \_\_\_\_\_ Revolutionary leader and first US President.

**icLnlon** Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ President during the civil war.

**csnkaJo** Andrew \_\_\_\_\_ Military leader, president from 1828 to 1836

**orteRb** \_\_\_\_\_ E Lee Southern general during the civil war.

**rknlaiFn** Ben \_\_\_\_\_ Revolutionary leader who flew a kite in the rain.

2., Answer these questions:

1. Who is your hero?
2. What do all of Harry's hero's have in common?
3. Who is your favorite historical figure?









